Introduction to Recycling: 3-5th special class

**Student standards**: classifying, manipulating materials, observing

**Teacher standards:** 3C-engage students in learning

**Hook:** students will enter the room upon arrival and all breakfast materials from the previous morning will be on a tarp on the rug. Students will come to the rug to watch a short video clip on landfills. Teacher will be sure to stop video & discuss/rewatch as students absorb facts.

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/30218-really-big-things-americas-landfills-video.htm>

**Questioning**: Why recycle? How do landfills effect our Earth? What are some materials that can be recycled? Leave questions open-ended so students can discuss prior knowledge

**Teach**: teacher will discuss with paras and students that we now have 4 separate bins for recycling within our classroom rather than 3. Black garbage bin, blue bin, green bin, brown bin and a liquids catch.

**Question**: What do you think belongs in each bin? Students will discuss and share ideas

**Teach**: Teacher will turn bins around so students can see the sticker labels.

**Model**: Teacher will model sorting 1 full breakfast tray into appropriate bins. Liquids will be poured into liquid catch, milk carton will be put into the blue bin, cheese wrapper will be put into the garbage bin, extra muffin bits into the brown compost bin along with the tray. Teacher will refer to the pictures on each bin as she is sorting

**Independent/group work**: Students can pair up or on their own attempt sorting materials into the correct bins. Students will come together at the end of the lesson to check the materials in each bin to be sure classmates sorted properly.

Assessment: after snack the students will sort their materials 1x1 into the bin with teacher assistance as needed. Students will visit the recycling center at the back of the classroom 1 at a time so teacher can assess individual understanding of morning learning.

**Follow up:** This lesson will be continuous; students will receive certain jobs such as being in charge of the mixed paper bin, plastics bin, etc. so they can double check the sorting each day until all students and staff are comfortable with the process.